

January 15, 2026: On Whether the Secretary of War Actually Means Star Wars and Not Star Trek

SECRETARY OF WAR PETE HEGSETH: Thank you, Elon. Appreciate it.

[Applause]

Thank you very much. How about this? Star Trek, real.

ELON MUSK: Star Trek, real. Yes.

Roddenberry intended the show to have a progressive political agenda reflective of the emerging counter-culture of the youth movement, though he was not fully forthcoming to the networks about this. He wanted *Star Trek* to show what humanity might develop into, if it would learn from the lessons of the past, most specifically by ending violence. An extreme example is the alien species known as the Vulcans, who had a violent past but learned to control their emotions. Roddenberry also gave *Star Trek* an anti-war message and depicted the United Federation of Planets as an ideal, optimistic version of the United Nations.^[15] His efforts were opposed by the network because of concerns over marketability, e.g., they opposed Roddenberry's insistence that *Enterprise* have a racially diverse crew.^[16]

THE UNSTATED GOAL IS STAR WARS, NOT STAR TREK - RIGHT, SECRETARY OF WAR?



"Star Wars: The Force Awakens," directed by J. J. Abrams, feels young, and as an act of pure storytelling it streams by with fluency and zip. Photograph by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures / Lucasfilm Ltd. / Courtesy Everett



An appeals court has temporarily blocked a federal judge's order that directed the Trump administration to return control of California's National Guard troops back to the state.